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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

) Examiner: Unassigned
) Group Art Unit: 2622

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April 12, 2002

April 12, 2002

APR 17 2002

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
9-65182	Japan	March 7, 1997
10-243327	Japan	September 11, 1998

REMARKS

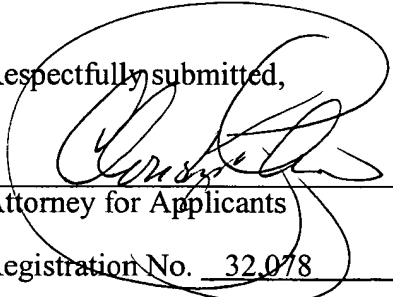
The JP '182 and JP '327 references are cited at pages 2 and 3, of the specification, respectively, and is believed pertinent for the reasons set forth therein. English translations of the Japanese documents are not presently available to Applicant's attorney, but may be provided if required by the Examiner. U.S. Patent No. 5,847,836 and European Patent Application No. 0,862,313 A2 are listed as being in the same patent family as the JP '182 reference and the JP '327 reference, respectively, and also are provided herewith. An English abstract for each of the JP '182 and '327 references obtained from a commercial database also is enclosed as an English language statement of relevance for the Examiner's consideration.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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